

(f) *Implementation of strategic plan.* The strategic plan may be implemented by the local government(s) and/or by the State(s) nominating an urban area for designation and/or by non-governmental entities identified in the strategic plan. Activities included in the plan may be funded from any source, Federal, State, local, or private, which provides assistance in the nominated area.

(g) *Activities included in strategic plan.* A strategic plan may include, but is not limited to, activities which address:

(1) Economic problems, through measures designed to create job training and employment opportunities; support for business start-up or expansion; or development of community institutions;

(2) Human concerns, through the provision of social services, such as rehabilitation and treatment programs or the provision of training, education, or other services within the affected area;

(3) Community needs, such as the expansion of housing stock and homeownership opportunities, efforts to reduce homelessness, efforts to promote fair housing and equal opportunity, efforts to reduce and prevent crime and improve security in the area; and

(4) Physical improvements, such as the provision or improvement of recreational areas, transportation or other public services within the affected area, and improvements to the infrastructure and environmental protection.

§ 597.201 Evaluating the strategic plan.

The strategic plan will be evaluated for effectiveness as part of the designation process for nominated urban areas described in § 597.301. On the basis of this evaluation, HUD may negotiate reasonable modifications of the strategic plan or of the boundaries of a nominated urban area or the period for which such designation shall remain in full effect. The effectiveness of the strategic plan will be determined in accordance with the four key principles set forth in § 597.200(c). HUD will review each plan submitted in terms of the four equally weighted key principles, and of such other elements of these key principles as are appropriate to address

the opportunities and problems of each nominated area which may include:

(a) *Economic opportunity.* (1) The extent to which businesses, jobs, and entrepreneurship increase within the Zone or Community;

(2) The extent to which residents will achieve a real economic stake in the Zone or Community;

(3) The extent to which residents will be employed in the process of implementing the plan and in all phases of economic and community development;

(4) The extent to which residents will be linked with employers and jobs throughout the entire region or metropolitan area, and the way in which residents will receive training, assistance, and family support to become economically self-sufficient;

(5) The extent to which economic revitalization in the Zone or Community interrelates with the broader regional or metropolitan economies; and

(6) The extent to which lending and investment opportunities will increase within the Zone or Community through the establishment of mechanisms to encourage community investment and to create new economic growth.

(b) *Sustainable community development—(1) Consolidated planning.* The extent to which the plan is part of a larger strategic community development plan for the nominating locality and is consistent with broader regional development strategies;

(2) *Public safety.* The extent to which strategies such as community policing will be used to guarantee the basic safety and security of persons and property within the Zone or Community;

(3) *Amenities and design.* The extent to which the plan considers issues of design and amenities that will foster a sustainable community, such as open spaces, recreational areas, cultural institutions, transportation, energy, land and water uses, waste management, environmental protection, and the quality of life in the community;

(4) *Sustainable development.* The extent to which economic development will be achieved in a manner that protects public health and the environment;

(5) *Supporting families.* The extent to which the strengths of families will be supported so that parents can succeed at work, provide nurture in the home, and contribute to the life of the community;

(6) *Youth development.* The extent to which the development of children, youth, and young adults into economically productive and socially responsible adults will be promoted, and the extent to which young people will be provided with the opportunity to take responsibility for learning the skills, discipline, attitude, and initiative to make work rewarding;

(7) *Education goals.* The extent to which schools, religious institutions, non-profit organizations, for-profit enterprises, local governments and families will work cooperatively to provide all individuals with the fundamental skills and knowledge they need to become active participants and contributors to their community, and to succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy;

(8) *Affordable housing.* The extent to which a housing component, providing for adequate safe housing and ensuring that all residents will have equal access to that housing is contained in the strategic plan;

(9) *Drug abuse.* The extent to which the plan addresses levels of drug abuse and drug related activity through the expansion of drug treatment services, drug law enforcement initiatives and community based drug abuse education programs;

(10) *Equal opportunity.* The extent to which the plan offers an opportunity for diverse residents to participate in the rewards and responsibilities of work and service. The extent to which the plan ensures that no business within a nominated Zone or Community will directly or through contractual or other arrangements subject a person to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disability in its employment practices, including recruitment, recruitment advertising, employment, layoff, termination, upgrading, demotion, transfer, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, or use of facilities.

(c) *Community-based partnerships—(1) Community partners.* The extent to

which residents of the nominated area have participated in the development of the strategic plan and their commitment to implementing it, and the extent to which community-based organizations in the nominated area have participated in the development of the plan and their record of success measured by their achievements and support for undertakings within the nominated area; and the extent to which the plan integrates the local educational, social, civic, environmental and health organizations and reflects the prominent place that these institutions play in the life of a revitalized community;

(2) *Private and non-profit organizations as partners.* The extent to which partnership arrangements include commitments from private and non-profit organizations, including corporations, utilities, banks and other financial institutions, and educational institutions supporting implementation of the strategic plan;

(3) *State and local government partners.* The extent to which State and local governments are committed to providing support to implement the strategic plan, including their commitment to “reinventing” their roles and coordinating programs to implement the strategic plan; and

(4) *Permanent implementation and evaluation structure.* The extent to which a responsible and accountable implementation structure or process has been created to ensure that the plan is successfully carried out and that improvements are made throughout the period of the Zone or Community’s designation and the extent to which the partners agree to be bound by their commitments.

(d) *Strategic vision for change—(1) Goals and coordinated strategy.* The extent to which the strategic plan reflects a projection for the community’s revitalization which links economic, human, physical, community development and other activities in a mutually reinforcing, synergistic way to achieve ultimate goals;

(2) *Creativity and innovation.* The extent to which the activities proposed in the plan are creative, innovative and promising and will promote the civic spirit necessary to revitalize the nominated area;

(3) *Building on assets.* The extent to which the vision for revitalization realistically addresses the needs of the nominated area in a way that takes advantage of its assets;

(4) *Benchmarks and learning.* The extent to which the plan includes performance benchmarks for measuring progress in its implementation, including an on-going process for adjustments, corrections and building on what works.

§ 597.202 Submission of nominations for designation.

(a) *General.* A nomination for designation as an Empowerment Zone and/or Enterprise Community must be submitted for each urban area for which such designation is requested. The nomination shall be submitted in a form to be prescribed by HUD in the application and in the Notice Inviting Applications published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and must contain complete and accurate information.

(b) *Certifications.* Certifications must be submitted by the State(s) and local government(s) requesting designation stating that:

(1) The nominated urban area satisfies the boundary tests of § 597.100(d);

(2) The nominated urban area is one of pervasive poverty, unemployment and general distress, as prescribed by § 597.102;

(3) The nominated urban area satisfies the poverty rate tests set forth in § 597.103;

(4) The nominated urban area contains no portion of an area that is either already designated as an Empowerment Zone and/or Enterprise Community, or is otherwise included in any other area nominated for designation as an Empowerment Zone and/or Enterprise Community;

(5) Each nominating governmental entity has the authority to:

(i) Nominate the urban area for designation as an Empowerment Zone and/or Enterprise Community;

(ii) Make the State and local commitments required by § 597.200(d); and

(iii) Provide written assurances satisfactory to the Secretary that these commitments will be met.

(6) Provide assurances that the amounts provided to the State for the

area under section 2007 of title XX of the Social Security Act will not be used to supplant Federal or non-Federal funds for services and activities which promote the purposes of section 2007;

(7) Provide that the nominating governments or corporations agree to make available all information requested by HUD to aid in the evaluation of progress in implementing the strategic plan and reporting on the use of Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Social Service Block Grant funds; and

(8) Provide assurances that the nominating State(s) agrees to distribute the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Social Service Block Grant funds in accordance with the strategic plan submitted for the designated Zone or Community.

(c) *Maps and area description.* Maps and a general description of the nominated urban area shall accompany the nomination request.

Subpart D—Designation Process

§ 597.300 HUD action and review of nominations for designation.

(a) *Establishment of submission procedures.* HUD will establish a time period and procedures for the submission of nominations for designation as Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities, including submission deadlines and addresses, in a Notice Inviting Applications, to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) *Acceptance for processing.* (1) HUD will accept for processing those nominations for designation as Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities which HUD determines have met the criteria required by this part. HUD will notify the State(s) and local government(s) whether or not the nomination has been accepted for processing. The criteria for acceptance for processing are as follows:

(2) The nomination for designation as an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community must be received by HUD on or before the time on the date established by the Notice Inviting Applications published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The nomination for designation as an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise